

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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DRC-01 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 378

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7280

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR PINR TW CH US

SUBJECT: PREMIER CHIANG'S US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: PEPPER MARTIN NOV 16 INTERVIEW WITH CHIANG CHING-KUO (PUBLISHED DEC 10 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT) WAS FRONT-PAGED BY ALL CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS HERE, MOST CARRYING FULL TEXT. WHILE GENERAL THRUST OF CCK'S REPLIES ARE STANDARD, SOME CONTAIN INTERESTING DEPARTURES AND LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT USUALLY DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS IN SUCH STARK FORM. EMD SUMMARY.

2. FULL TEXT OF ROBERT P. MARTIN'S INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO, PUBLISHED IN DEC 10 ISSUE US NEWS & WORLD REPORT WAS CARRIED FULL TEXT IN ALL CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS HERE. SUMMARIES WERE BROADCAST ON TV AND RADIO AND CARRIED IN LOCAL  
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS. LOCAL CIRCULATION

SEEMS CLEARLY DESIGNED AS GUIDANCE ON PRC-US-ROC RELATIONS.

3. GENERAL THRUST OF CCK'S COMMENTS WAS STANDARD BUT SOME OF HIS REPLIES CONTAINED INTERESTING DEPARTURES. HE ALSO GRASPED A NUMBER OF NETTLES OFFERED BY MARTIN, CHOOSING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC, ABROGATION OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY, THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CCK DURING HIS TRIP TO THE US, AND MAINLANDER-TAIWANESE RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL PRESS HAS DEALT WITH SOME OF THESE MATTERS BEFORE, IT IS UNUSUAL TO SEE THEM PRESENTED IN SUCH STARK FORM AND FOR THE PREMIER TO BE DISCUSSING THEM.

4. PREMIER'S MOST STRIKING DEPARTURE FROM STANDARD ROC LINE WAS IN ACCEPTING, AT LEAST FOR HYPOTHETICAL PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION, POSSIBILITY THAT US MIGHT RECOGNIZE PRC AND/OR ABROGATE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY. HIS TREATMENT OF THESE SUBJECTS WAS GENERAL AND LOFTY WITHOUT THE THREAT OF SPECIFIC, IMMEDIATE, AND DIRE CONSEQUENCES COMMON TO MUCH ROC PROPAGANDA. THE MOST INTERESTING THING, HOWEVER, IS THAT CCK CHOSE TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO MARTIN'S QUESTIONS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HERE CHOSE TO CIRCULATE THE RESPONSES SO BROADLY.

5. IN DISCUSSING TAIWANESE-MAINLANDER DIFFERENCES, CHINESE TEXT HAS PREMIER SAYING THESE DISTINCTIONS WILL NO LONGER EXIST (OR, ALTERNATIVELY, NOW NO LONGER EXIST) IN GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES, THUS OFFICIALLY ADMITTING (AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE BELIEVE) THAT SUCH DISTINCTIONS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, CHINESE TEXT ADDS PASSAGE, NOT IN ENGLISH TEXT AVAILABLE TO US HERE, DENYING THAT GROC HAD EVER BEEN UNPOPULAR ON TAIWAN.

6. PREMIER'S DOWNPLAYING OF POSSIBILITY PRC MIGHT USE FORCE TO TAKE TAIWAN, AND EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL

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ASPECTS, IS ALSO INTERESTING. TWO WEEKS AGO, AT KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, HE EMPHASIZED DANGER OF PRC "GO FOR BROKE" ATTACK.

7. IN DISCUSSING US TROOP DEPLOYMENTS IN ASIA, PREMIER SAID IT WOULD BE "VERY DANGEROUS" FOR US TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA AND OKINAWA AND AIR FORCE FROM THAILAND. HE POINTEDLY DID NOT MENTION

PRESENCE OF US MILITARY UNITS IN TAIWAN OR SUGGEST THEIR  
PRESENCE HERE IS NECESSARY FOR PEACE IN THE REGION.  
IN DISCUSSING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ASIA, HE DID SAY  
OKINAWA, TAIWAN AND PESCADORES FORM IMPORTANT LINK  
IN DETERING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN PACIFIC.

8. COMMENT: HAVING SAID FOREGOING, WE WOULD  
AT SAME TIME CAUTION AGAINST OVER-INTERPRETATION.  
PREMIER'S ANSWERS UNDOUBTEDLY ARE TAILORED PRIMARILY  
FOR AMERICAN AUDIENCE AND, AS SUCH, THEY NECESSARILY  
ARE LESS STRIDENT THAN MOST ROC PROPAGANDA EFFORTS.  
WE UNDERSTAND ACTUAL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW CONTAINS  
MATERIAL NOT PUBLISHED. DEPT MIGHT WISH TO ASK  
MARTIN FOR A LOOK.

9. DIFFERENCES IN TONE FROM PAST ROC COMMENT WILL  
BE NOTED HERE. WILLINGNESS OF ROC'S SECOND MOST  
SENIOR OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS THE HERETOFORE NON-  
(PUBLICLY)-DISCUSSABLE AND TO DO SO IN STRAIGHTFORWARD  
FASHION UNDOUBTEDLY WILL PERMIT SLIGHTLY  
MORE CANDID FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS BY THE PRESS. TO  
A DEGREE, THIS EMREADY HAS BEGUN TO HAPPEN. LOW  
CIRCULATION MAGAZINES LIKE JEN YU SEH HUEI (MAN &  
SOCIETY) HAVE PUBLISHED SUCH PIECES (SEE TAIPEI A-207)  
AND A SMALL BUT GROWING NUMBER OF PRESS ARTICLES  
SPECULATING ON POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL  
US-PRC TIES HAVE APPEARED SINCE SECRETARY'S LAST TRIP  
TO PEKING. BY PUBLISHING FULL CHINESE TRANSLATION OF  
MARTIN INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT UNDOUBTEDLY  
INTEND TO ESTABLISH A "LINE," OR TO SET LIMITS FOR  
DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES.  
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